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Funding to Help Victims of Crime Increases by 500 Percent in 2015
Available Amount nears \$40 million, up from \$8 million

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) announced today 2015 funding to help victims of crime has reached an all-time high for the State of Indiana – at nearly \$40 million. Funding will be made available through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant. **Grant applications will be accepted in two phases, with the first phase opening in the upcoming weeks and the second phase opening later this year.**

The United States Congress created the VOCA fund in 1984 to supply funding to organizations providing direct services to victims of crime. VOCA is funded entirely by the collected revenue of federal crime fines, forfeitures, and special assessments. In 2014, ICJI awarded over \$8 million in VOCA grants to 155 recipients.

VOCA funding focuses on efforts that respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assist in the stabilization of primary and secondary victims following victimization, provide victims direction in understanding and participating in the criminal justice system, and provide victims with a measure of safety and security. Supported programs include those working in the area of elder abuse, child neglect, adults victimized as children, and victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, violent crimes, robbery, intoxicated drivers, and economic exploitation and fraud.

Organizations eligible to receive funding include state, public, and nonprofit institutions whose sole mission is to provide services to victims of crime; criminal justice departments, such as law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, courts, corrections departments, and probation/parole agencies; as well as organizations providing mental health support, legal assistance, and programs with a history of advocacy on behalf of domestic violence and sexual assault victims

ICJI is continually looking for new and innovative programs that support victims of crime. Past recipients, related programs, and those wishing to establish creative solutions in this area are encouraged to apply.

For more information regarding Indiana's statewide resources available to assist victims of crime, please visit: www.IN.gov/CJI, and click on the victim services link.

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